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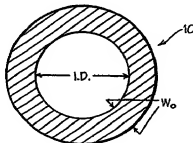
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(54) Title: A PTFE TUBE

## (57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) tube, and more particularly to a PTFE tube for a flexible hose. In particular the invention relates to a PTFE tube having a smooth bore for use in the production of a lined hose assembly further comprising hose braids, external hose protection and end fittings. The PTFE tube comprises external roots and peaks, which tube is obtainable from a non-convoluted tube having an original wall thickness  $W_0$  and an internal diameter ID by a process in which a region of the tube is thinned to provide external convolutions with a root wall thickness  $W_1$  characterised in that the convoluted PTFE tube has an improved resistance, of greater than 7.6 %, to permeation by comparison with the non-convoluted tube, the comparison being made between tubes of (i) equal nominal bore ID; and (ii) equal weight of PTFE per unit length.



(i) heat above the gel transition temperature in the absence of a restraining force

(i) apply deformation force at or above the gel transition temperature

(ii) cool to below the gel transition temperature with a restraining force while convolutions become stable

